

The following words, terms and phrases hereinafter used for the purpose of this Article are defined as follows:

- (1) "Primary forest product" shall include those products of the tree after it is severed from the stump and cut to its first roundwood product for further conversion. These products include but are not limited to whole trees for chipping, whole tree logs, sawlogs, pulpwood, veneer bolts, and posts, poles and piling.
- (2) "Processor" shall mean the individual, group, association, or corporation that procures primary forest products at their initial point of concentration for conversion to secondary products or for shipment to others for such conversion.
- (3) "Forest Development Fund" shall mean the special fund established by ~~the Forest Development Act of 1977~~; G.S. 106-963.
- (4) For the purpose of this Article, the following are not considered "primary forest products":
  - a. Christmas trees and associated greens;
  - b. Material harvested from an individual's own land and used on said land for the construction of fences, buildings or other personal use developments;
  - c. Fuel wood harvested for personal use or use in individual homes.

**"§ 106-968. Operation of assessment system.**

(a) The General Assembly hereby levies an assessment on all primary forest products harvested from lands within the State of North Carolina.

(b) This assessment shall be at the rates as established in ~~G.S. 113A-194(b)~~ G.S. 106-970(b) and the proceeds of such assessment shall be deposited in the Forest Development Fund.

**"§ 106-969. Duties.**

- (a) The Secretary, Department of Revenue, shall:
  - (1) Develop the necessary administrative procedures to collect the assessment;
  - (2) Collect the assessment from the primary forest product processors;
  - (3) Deposit funds collected from the assessment in the Forest Development Fund;
  - (4) Audit the records of processors to determine compliance with the provisions of this Article.
- (b) ~~The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources~~ Commissioner of Agriculture shall:
  - (1) Provide to the Secretary, Department of Revenue, lists of processors subject to the assessment;
  - (2) Advise the Secretary, Department of Revenue, of the appropriate methods to convert measurements of primary forest products by other systems to those authorized in this Article;
  - (3) Establish in November prior to those sessions in which the General Assembly considers the State budget, the estimated total assessment that will be collectible in the next budget period and so inform the General Assembly;
  - (4) Within 30 days of certification of the State budget, notify the Secretary, Department of Revenue, of the need to collect the assessment for those years covered by the approved budget.
  - (5) By January 15 of each odd-numbered year, report to the General Assembly on the number of acres reforested, type of owners assisted, geographic distribution of funds, the amount of funds encumbered and other matters. The report shall include the information by forestry district and statewide and shall be for the two fiscal years prior to the date of the report.